

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

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R 021650Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4905

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECLAS 1 JAN 1978

TAGS: ECON EFIN

SUBJECT: DRAFT 1976 MAURITANIAN BUDGET APPROVED

1. GIRM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECEMBER 29 IN FIRST STEP OF BUDGET PROCESS APPROVED NATIONAL BUDGET FOR 1976 OF 6.1 BILLION OUGUIYA (\$DOLLAR - 44 UM), AN INCREASE OF 24 PERCENT OVER 4.9 BILLION OUGUIYA 1975 BUDGET. BUDGET PRIORITIBZDJJE: (A) REUNIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY, (B) NATIONAL DEFENSZFZUMJD (C) DEVELOPMENT.

2. TO MEET THIS INCREASE IN EXPENDITURES, A SPICAL ONE-TIME INCOME TAX IS BEING IMPOSED. TAX WILL BE: 2 PERCENT OF THE INCOME OF NON-SALARIED WORKERS; PERCENTAGE FOR OTHER EMPLOYEES WILL VARY ACCORDING TO MONTHLY SALARY. CUSTOM DUTIES (EXCEPT ON ITEMS OF "PRIMARY IMPORTANCE" AND THOSE USED IN CONSTRUCTION) AND CORPORATE TAXES WILL ALSO BE INCREASED.

3. COMMENT: EMPHASIS ON REUNIFICATION OF COUNTRY AND NATIONAL DEFENSE (WHICH AT MOMENT ARE VIRTUALLY ONE AND SAME) IN THE BUDGET CONFIRMS OBSERVATION BY MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY THAT GIRM HAD PERHAPS MADE "MISTAKE" IN STRESSING DEVELOPMENT AND DOWNPLAYING MILITARY DURING FIRST FIFTEEN YEARS, AND CONCLUSION "THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOW RELUCTANTLY REACHED THAT GIRM MUST READJUST

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ITS PRIORITIES.HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

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